

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the above amendments and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

The present supplemental amendment is hereby submitted to supplement the response filed with an RCE on December 10, 2010. As no new Office Action has been issued since the RCE was filed, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner use his discretion to enter the present supplemental amendment.

Claims 11-16 and 25-38 are pending. In the present supplemental amendment, Claims 35-38 are added. Support for Claims 35-38 can be found in the original specification, for example, at page 1, lines 3-12 and 20-22, at page 6, lines 12-18, at page 7, line 15 to page 8, line 25, at page 9, line 8 to page 10, line 2, at page 12, lines 11-19, in Figures 1-5, and in original Claims 22-24. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

It is noted that original Claims 22-24 were method claims and were examined on the merits in the Office Action dated June 7, 2007. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that new Claims 35-38, which are also drawn to a method, be examined on the merits in the next Office communication.

New Claim 35 is an independent claim directed to a method by which a tubular body is adapted to be centralized during rotation within a well bore. As recited in Claim 36, the tubular body can be an existing tubular body that is adapted by molding centralizer projections such that the tubular body can be aligned during drilling within a well bore.

Specifically, to centralize the tubular body, a mold is attached to the tubular body and injected with a mixed composite material including a curable resin, ceramic particulate filler materials, and chopped carbon fiber. The composite material is molded to the tubular body to form centralizer projections that, when the tubular body is rotating within the well bore, align the tubular body within the well bore.

Although Claim 35 is a new claim that has not been rejected, Applicants hereby address the references cited in the previous Office Action to advance prosecution. Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references do not disclose or suggest every feature recited in Claim 35.

As discussed previously, Hwang is directed to a damper that includes vibration damping material that comprises a viscoelastic material.¹ Lines 35-50 in column 8 of Hwang list a variety of articles that can be dampened with the invention, such as golf clubs shafts, light poles, and states that “the damper of the invention fits snugly within the article which it damps.” Hwang describes the viscoelastic material as “one that is viscous, and therefore capable of dissipating energy, yet exhibits certain elastic properties, and therefore capable of storing energy at the desired temperature and frequency range.”² Hwang also states that the vibration damping material can include additives such as antistatic agents.³

Thus, Hwang does not disclose or suggest attaching the dampers to a tubular body that is inserted into a well bore or that, when rotated, the dampers will align the article to which they are attached in the well bore. In fact, the dampers of Hwang are made of a viscoelastic material that is not suitable to be inserted into a well bore, and thus a person of ordinary skill in the art would not find it obvious to insert an article having the dampers of Hwang attached thereto into a well bore.

Further, Hwang does not disclose or suggest that the dampers are attached to a tubular body via molding. As discussed above, the dampers of Hwang are not inserted into a well bore, and thus Hwang is not concerned with the space and efficiency requirements related to oil and gas drilling. Accordingly, a person of ordinary skill in the art reading Hwang would

¹ See Hwang, at column 3, lines 24 and 25.

² See Hwang, at column 3, lines 25-28.

³ See Hwang, at column 5, lines 32-37.

not attach the dampers via molding to avoid on-site assembly work or free up storage space normally reserved for centralizer stock.⁴

Thus, Hwang is not relevant to an injection molding process resulting in bonding the claimed composite material to a tubular to be inserted in a well bore, such that the composite material forms centralizer projections of a desired shape and size to enable the tubular to be centralized effectively in the well bore and enable that tubular to be aligned effectively in the wellbore.

Each secondary reference (Ries and Mushovic) is cited for the proposition that carbon fiber is an antistatic agent. However, the secondary references are also not relevant to an injection molding process resulting in bonding the claimed composite material to a tubular to be inserted in a well bore, such that the composite material forms centralizer projections of the desired shape and size to enable the tubular to be centralized effectively in the well bore and enable that tubular to be aligned effectively in the wellbore.

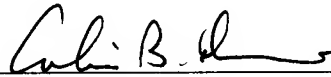
Accordingly, the secondary references (Ries and Mushovic) do not cure the above-identified deficiencies of Hwang. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 35, and Claims 36-38 which depend from Claim 35, patentably define over the cited references.

⁴ See the original specification, for example, at page 13, lines 11-18.

Consequently, an early and favorable consideration of the present supplemental amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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